

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

~~Claim 1.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A filter device for the depletion of the leukocyte content from a blood products product, comprising

a housing ~~with~~ having an inlet and an outlet ~~port~~ and, within said housing, ~~at least~~ more than two porous elements ~~adapted for removing~~ configured to remove leukocytes, each of said porous element comprising elements including one or more layers of a filtering material[[,]] ~~wherein~~ and each of said at least two porous elements have having a different hydrophilicity, ~~characterized in that the~~

said more than two porous elements ~~are~~ being arranged in the filter device ~~so~~ such that ~~the first element~~ any of said porous elements has a higher hydrophilicity than ~~the~~ a successive filter element(s) porous element in ~~the~~ a direction of flow, from said inlet to said outlet, of ~~the~~ said blood product through ~~the~~ said filter device.

~~Claim 2.~~ (Canceled)[[:]]

~~Claim 3.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 1, wherein each of said porous ~~element comprises~~ elements includes at least two adjacent layers of said filtering material.

~~Claim 4.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 3, wherein said at least two adjacent layers of filtering material ~~are made~~ have a construction of ~~the~~ a same material having ~~the same~~ identical hydrophilicity properties.

~~Claim 5.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 3, wherein said at least two adjacent layers have a decreasing pore size from said inlet to said outlet.

~~Claim 6.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 1, wherein any ~~given~~ of said porous ~~element is made~~ elements has a construction of ~~a~~ the filtering material having a pore size ~~higher~~ larger than the pore size of ~~it's~~ the successive porous element.

~~Claim 7.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 1, wherein said porous elements ~~are made~~ have a construction of fibers of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyolefines, polyamide and

polyester, and polyolefines or polyamides coated with a hydrophilic polymer, and or mixtures of said fibers.

~~Claim 8.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 7, wherein said hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydrophilic acrylic polymers or copolymers, and hydrophilic polyurethane.

~~Claim 9.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A filter device ~~including~~ comprising at least a first porous element ~~made~~ having a construction of layers of polybutylterephthalate fibers coated with a hydrophilic polymer or a copolymer, and a second porous element ~~made~~ having a construction of uncoated polybutylterephthalate or polypropylene layers.

~~Claim 10.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 1, ~~comprising two or more porous elements for leukocyte depletion made of one or more layers of filtering material~~[[:]] wherein said porous elements are arranged in the filter device according to a decreasing value of ~~the~~ a CST or a CWST of the ~~constituting~~ filtering material, from said inlet to said outlet.

~~Claim 11.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a difference between the hydrophilicity of the inlet porous element and ~~the~~ a final outlet porous

element, as measured by ~~the~~ a value of ~~the~~ a CST or a CWST of the ~~constituting~~ filtering material, ~~is of~~ at least 10 dyn/cm.

~~Claim 12.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a difference between the hydrophilicity of the inlet porous element and ~~the~~ a final outlet porous element, as measured by ~~the~~ a value of ~~the~~ a CST or a CWST of the ~~constituting~~ filtering material, ~~is of~~ from 10 to 20 dyn/cm.

~~Claim 13.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 1, wherein the first inlet porous element ~~is made~~ has a construction of material having a hydrophilicity as measured by ~~the~~ a CST or a CWST of the ~~constituting~~ filtering material that is higher than 63 dyn/cm.

~~Claim 14.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 1, further comprising within said housing one or more ~~additional~~ filter elements of any hydrophilicity which are not ~~adapted~~ configured for leukocyte removal ~~(e.g. gel filtration elements or microaggregate filtration elements).~~

~~Claim 15.~~ (Currently amended)[[:]] A The filter device according to claim 14, wherein said filter elements not ~~adapted~~ configured for leukocyte removal are located closer to the inlet than said elements ~~adapted~~ configured for leukocyte removal.

~~Claim~~ 16. (Currently amended)[[:]] A blood bag device for the separation of blood into leukocyte depleted blood components, said device comprising at least a first bag connected[[],] in fluid flow communication with a second bag through a leukocyte filter device according to claim 1.

~~Claim~~ 17. (Currently amended)[[:]] A method for the leukocyte depletion of a blood products product, said method comprising feeding said blood product through a filter device according to claim 1.

~~Claim~~ 18. (Currently amended)[[:]] A The method according to claim 17, wherein said blood product is selected from the group consisting of whole blood, platelet-rich plasma, packed red cells, platelet concentrate, and plasma.

19. (New) The filter device according to claim 14, wherein said filter elements not configured for leukocyte removal are gel filtration elements or microaggregate filtration elements.

20. (New) A filter device for depleting leukocyte content from a blood product, comprising:

 a housing having an inlet and an outlet, with a flow direction of said blood product through said filter device being from said inlet to said outlet; and

more than two porous elements disposed within said housing, each of said porous elements (i) being configured to remove leukocytes, (ii) having at least two adjacent layers of a filtering material, and (iii) having a different hydrophilicity relative to one another,

said more than two porous elements being arranged in the filter device such that, in said flow direction, each of said porous elements has a higher hydrophilicity than a successive porous element.

21. (New) The filter device according to claim 20, wherein said filter device has a decreasing hydrophilicity profile from a porous element located closest to said inlet to a porous element located closest to said outlet.